

More on Margaret Miles

By [Steve Thorngate](#)

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Parker Williamson is shocked—[shocked](#)—that Union Theological Seminary & Presbyterian School of Christian Education is featuring as its [2010 Sprunt Lecturer](#) “a feminist speaker who favors replacing the cross with a lactating breast.”

David Smart [agrees](#), crowing that he “couldn’t make that up if I tried.” Maybe not, but no matter—Williamson’s got it covered. Nice to know that Margaret Miles’s [Century article](#)

from early 2008 can still provoke this kind of hyperbolic half-truth. Williamson quotes the article, though naturally not this part:

The secularization of the breast in early modern Western Europe began a long process in which Christianity came to be seen increasingly as focused on beliefs and doctrines, while bodies and physical practices were marginalized. Both images of the crucifixion and images of the lactating Virgin visualize bodies as capable of communicating Christianity's central message—God's love for humanity. It may well be that both images are needed.

Union-PSCE student and [CCblogger](#) Marvin Lindsay offers a [more thoughtful response](#).

His starting point is a panel discussion of Miles’s article at the seminary, in anticipation of her upcoming lecture. Sounds like a good and provocative conversation.